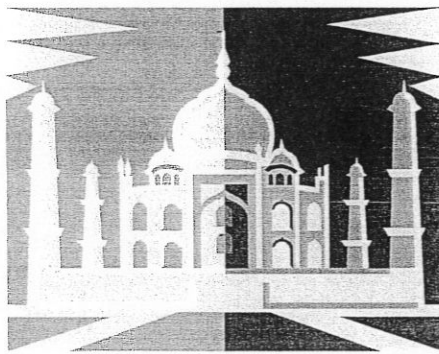


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## Lesson 1: How to Say Thank You in Hindi dhanyavaad

### LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination may be, manners are a must! And in this respect, India is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be teaching you a simple phrase that is bound to come in handy throughout your trip to India. I can't stress this enough, a little a bit of language can go such a long way!

In Hindi, "Thank you" is dhanyavaad.

You can emphasize dhanyavaad by adding bahut, which literally means "very much." You could say bahut dhanyavaad, which would be equivalent to "Thank you very much," or "Thanks a lot."

In Hindi, there are other ways to express one's gratitude. dhanyavaad derives from Sanskrit, and it's felt as quite formal. That's why some people prefer to use Urdu expressions, which are felt as more colloquial.

A more colloquial expression for "Thank you" in Hindi is shukriyaa. Also, shukriyaa can be preceded by bauht, which means "very much."

### PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
धन्यवाद	dhanyavaad	Formal "Thank you."
बहुत धन्यवाद	bahut dhanyavaad	Formal "Thank you very much."
शुक्रिया	shukriyaa	Colloquial "Thank you."
बहुत शुक्रिया	bahut shukriyaa	Colloquial "Thank you very much."

### VOCABULARY

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
बहुत	bahut	very much

### QUICK TIP

By far, shukriyaa and dhanyavaad are the most common ways to say "Thank you." Remember anyway that the Hindi language has different conventions. Thus, Hindi speakers mostly prefer to use dhanyavaad and other expressions of gratitude only when they really mean it and not as an ordinary form of politeness. This is because politeness is already expressed by the polite form of pronouns and verbs.

You can say shukriyaa or dhanyavaad when the waiter brings your food or drinks, when the clerk in the hotel takes your luggage to your room, or when somebody welcomes you or congratulates you. But not all people will do the same or answer you back. This does not mean they are impolite: they just have a different way to show it.

### QUICK TIP 2

You will find that Hindi has many equivalent synonyms for a single word, just like shukriyaa and dhanyavaad, out of which one always sounds more colloquial. This is because in colloquial Hindi, speakers often prefer to use the Urdu vocabulary. In this case, for example, dhanyavaad derives from Sanskrit, while shukriyaa is an Arabic loanword used in Urdu. The first one sounds more formal, or "pure" as native speakers would say. The second one is more common in colloquial contexts or with Muslim people.



## Lesson 2: How to Say You're Welcome in Hindi

svaagat hai

### LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson, we'll continue to learn more phrases that will help you with basic etiquette. Indians are exceptionally hospitable, and even though their way to show politeness may differ from Western manners, there's a good chance you will hear svaagat hai "welcome" during your trip in India. So let's have a closer look at it!

In Hindi, "You're welcome" is also sometimes expressed as svaagat hai. The expression svaagat hai means "welcome."

In Hindi, we can also add the formal possessive pronoun aap kaa before svaagat hai, and the meaning will be the same. aap kaa is a formal or polite possessive pronoun we use for singular, plural, masculine, or feminine person, and it literally means "your."

You can also respond to someone that has thanked you by using another expression. This is koi baat nahee, which literally means "It's nothing."

### PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
स्वागत है	svaagat hai	You're welcome.
आप का स्वागत है	aap kaa svaagat hai	You're welcome.
कोई बात नहीं	koi baat nahee	It's nothing.

### VOCABULARY

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
स्वागत है	svaagat hai	welcome

### QUICK TIP

When having guests over in India, one always greets their guests with svaagat hai or aap kaa svaagat hai, meaning "Welcome!"



## QUICK TIP 2

Just as with the expressions for "Thank you" and "Please," Indians do not always use "You're welcome" in everyday situations, and it is mostly literally translated from English. Often, native speakers show politeness simply by using polite pronouns and verb forms while speaking or even by using the English equivalent for such expressions.







## Lesson 3: Getting What You Want Using Hindi kripiyaa

### LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson, we'll look at how to ask for something politely.

In Hindi, there is a word for "please," although it's practically never heard in the everyday context. This is kripiyaa. You will only hear this word in very formal contexts.

Anyway, if you need anything, the easiest way to ask for it politely is to point at it while saying the expression yeha deejie, which means "Give this to me, please." When using the respectful imperative form, deejie, we don't need to specify kripiyaa to make it sound polite in Hindi because this form already implies politeness. Let's look at the word for "this." In Hindi, "this" is yeha.

A colloquial way to say "this" when asking for something is yeha vaalaa. The first part, yeha, means "this," and we can translate the final part, vaalaa, as "the one." This form is not very grammatically correct, but it's very common and can be very useful when asking for something.

Looking at the word for "this" warrants a look at the word for "that," which is vaha. The phrase "Give that to me, please," is vaha diijiye.

### PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
कृपया	kripiyaa	Please.
यह दीजिये	yeha deejie	Give this to me, please.
वह दीजिये	vaha deejie	Give that to me, please.
यह वाला	yaha vaalaa	this (colloquial)

## VOCABULARY

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
यह	yeha	this (object)
वह	vaha	that (object)



## Lesson 4: Basic Hindi Greetings

namaste

### LESSON NOTES

Today, we'll cover basic greetings. As there are quite a few to cover, let's jump right in.

In Hindi, we can use the word namaste as a universal greeting. We use it both when greeting and when parting, usually while saying namaste.

There is also a variation of this same greeting that sounds a little more formal, or plural. This is namaskaar.

Another way to make namaste sound more respectful is to add the particle -jii at the end, as in namaste-jii. We can also add -jii to the name of a person when we want to address that person with respect.

In Hindi, we do not relate greetings to the different parts of the day. We seldom use some literal translations of the English greetings "Good morning" and "Good night." Anyway, you can use the greeting for "Goodnight" more easily if you wish. "Goodnight" in Hindi is shubh raatrii. The first word, shubh, means "good." raatrii, which in Hindi is "night," follows this.

In India there are many religions, and Indians are typically very tolerant toward different creeds. Often, Hindi speakers may choose to greet others according to their religion. A typical Hindu greeting, both for "hello" and "good-bye," is hari om. Another common Hindu greeting we use similarly is raam-raam.

If you want to greet a Muslim with a typical Muslim expression, you may use salaam-aalaikum.

You can respond to someone who greets you with salaam-aalaikum, with valekum-assalaam.



## PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
नमस्ते	namaste	Hello and Good-bye.
शुभ रात्री	shubh raatrii	Goodnight.
हरी ओम	hari om	Hello and Good-bye (Hindu greeting).
राम-राम	raam-raam	Hello and Good-bye (Hindu greeting).
सालाम वालैकुम	salaam-aalaikum	Hello and Good-bye (Muslim greeting).
वालैकुम अससलाम	valekum-assalaam	Hello and Good-bye (Muslim greeting, answer).
नमस्कार	namaskaar	Hello and Good-bye (formal or plural).

## VOCABULARY

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
शुभ	shubh	good

## QUICK TIP

Hindi speakers slightly bow their head and fold their hands when they say namaste or namaskaar. These two greetings come from Sanskrit and literally mean "I honor you": that's why we pronounce them showing respect to the other.

## QUICK TIP 2

Many speakers also pronounce the word namaskaar as namashkaar. You can use either one.





## Lesson 5: How to Say Goodbye in Hindi namaste

### LESSON NOTES

Today, we'll introduce parting greetings.

As we learned in the previous lesson, Namaste can mean both "hello" and "good-bye." However, this is not the only way of saying good-bye in Hindi!

A parting expression that we can use for all occasions is phir milenge, which means "See you."

The first word, phir, means "again," and the second word milenge means "We will meet."

Let's look at another expression. The word namaste, as seen in the previous lesson, also means "good-bye."

As we learned in the last lesson, the more formal or plural namaskaar is also an appropriate choice when parting.

A variation of phir milenge, is phir milte hai, which literally means "We meet again."

Another less common expression that means "good-bye" is the Urdu word alvidaa. alvidaa literally means "farewell."

### PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
नमस्ते	namaste	Good-bye.
नमस्कार	namaskaar	Good-bye (formal or plural).
फिर मिलेंगे	phir milenge	See you later.
फिर मिलते हैं	phir milte hai	See you later (variation).
अल्विदा	alvidaa	Farewell.

### QUICK TIP

The easiest way of saying your good-byes in Hindi is by using namaste! Take a slight bow with folded hands and say namaste!, and you'll be just like one of the locals!

We can also use the more formal or plural namaskaar the same way.

### QUICK TIP 2

In the expression phir milenge, most speakers pronounce phir as [fir], and you can do the same if you wish even though phir would be the original and more correct form. The [f] sound does not exist in Hindi, but the Urdu sound [fa] can be represented as a variation of [pha] in Hindi. That's why many speakers consider these two sounds interchangeable.





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## Lesson 8: How to Say I Don't Understand in Hindi

mai nahee samajhtaa hoon. mai nahee samajhtaa hoon.

### LESSON NOTES

Today, we shall see a very useful phrase meaning "I don't understand." It is very useful because many times you won't immediately understand what people are saying.

In Hindi, "I don't understand" is mai nahee samajhtaa hoon. The first word, mai, means "I." The Hindi word meaning "not" follows, which is nahee. The Hindi word for "understand," which is samajhtaa hoon, follows next. To recap, we have mai nahee samajhtaa hoon. Literally, this means "I don't understand."

This was how a man would say it. Now let's see how a woman would say "I don't understand": mai nahee samajhtee hoon. Replace the masculine samajhtaa with samajhtee.

Now let's look at another phrase, mujhe maaloom nahee, which means "I don't know." The word maaloom literally means "known," and it could be also replaced by the word pataa, which literally means "clue": mujhe pataa nahee.

Another way to express that you don't understand is asking someone "What does it mean?" This phrase in Hindi is iskaa matlab kyaa hai? The first word, iskaa, means "its." This is followed by matlab, which in English is "meaning." Then we have kyaa hai, which means "What is?" To recap here, we have iskaa matlab kyaa hai? Literally, this means "What does it mean?" In colloquial Hindi, people can simply say matlab? instead of saying the complete sentence.

### PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
मैं नहीं समझता हूँ	mai nahee samajhtaa hoon.	I don't understand. (masculine)
मैं नहीं समझती हूँ	mai nahee samajhtee hoon.	I don't understand. (feminine)
मुझे मालूम नहीं	mujhe maaloom nahee.	I don't know.
मुझे पता नहीं	mujhe pataa nahee.	I don't know. (variation)
इसका मतलब क्या है	iskaa matlab kyaa hai?	What does it mean?

**Devan#gar#****Romanization****English****VOCABULARY****Devan#gar#****Romanization****English**

मालूम

maaloom

known

समझना

samajhnaa

understand

क्या

kyaa

what

**QUICK TIP**

When engaged in a conversation with Hindi speakers, you're more than likely not going to understand everything they're saying to you. This could be for a number of reasons: the accent, how fast the person is speaking, or the vocabulary that the person is using. If this happens, don't be afraid to say mai nahee samajhtaa or samajhtee hoon. Indians will be more than happy to try to explain what they have just said. Or maybe you've understood the general sense of a phrase, but there was a word someone used that you had never heard before. To find the meaning of this new word, simply ask the person iska matlab kyaa hai? In English this means "What does it mean?"

**QUICK TIP 2**

If you have managed to understand what a Hindi speaker has told you, they might ask you samajh mei aayaa? meaning "Did you understand?" You can now answer this with "Yes, I understood," which is jii haan, samajh mei aayaa.



## Lesson 10: How to Say I'm Sorry in Hindi maaf keejiye

### LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson, we'll cover phrases used for apologizing. Now, as you haven't quite mastered Hindi, it's probably very prudent to go over the phrases for apologizing as they just might come in handy.

We'll start with "I'm sorry," which in Hindi is maaf keejiye. The first word, maaf, literally means "forgiven," and keejiye is a polite form meaning "make me"; thus, this expression actually means "Forgive me, please!" Now let's hear it again: maaf keejiye.

Please note that we use maaf keejiye in the formal level of speech.

When talking to a friend, you can also choose to change to the informal level of speech, in which you will use maaf karo.

You use maaf keejiye and maaf karo when you might have said or done something offensive, wrong, or embarrassing.

As we have previously stated, in Hindi we have many synonyms for a single expression, usually a more colloquial Urdu form and a Sanskrit form. This is the case with "I'm sorry" as well with maaf keejiye being the Urdu form and the corresponding Sanskrit form in Hindi is kshamaa keejiye. Also, this expression has an informal version: kshamaa karo.

Now, what if someone says maaf keejiye or kshamaa keejiye to you after having done something wrong, and you want to respond "No problem," or "It doesn't matter." In this case, the proper form is koe baat nahee.

### PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
माफ कीजिये	maaf keejiye	I'm sorry. (formal)

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
माफ करो	maaf karo	I'm sorry. (informal)
क्षमा कीजिये	kshamaa keejiye	I'm sorry. (formal) with Sanskrit synonym
क्षमा करो	kshamaa karo	I'm sorry. (informal) with Sanskrit synonym
कोई बात नहीं	koe baat nahee	No problem/It doesn't matter.

## VOCABULARY

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
माफ करना	maaf karnaa	to forgive
क्षमा करना	kshamaa karnaa	to forgive

## QUICK TIP

If someone bumps into you on the streets in India, don't expect an "Excuse me," especially in the big cities. Indians are usually a very friendly people but just do not consider excusing themselves for bumping into someone as time well spent, especially because crowds will be one of the major scenarios in big cities. Unless someone pushes you over so hard you fall on the ground, keep walking.



## Lesson 52: Introducing Yourself in Hindi

aap kaise hain?

### LESSON NOTES

Whatever the reason for travelling to India, you won't leave the country without having met people. Therefore, it's necessary to learn how to introduce yourself and how to respond to people introducing themselves.

The best way to introduce ourselves is maybe by reviewing the parts of a conversation. As you know, we have a polite version, the one where we use the formal level of speech, and another one in which we use the informal level.

Let's cover the formal version first.

In Hindi, "How do you do?" is Aap kaise hai? The first word aap means, "you" formal version. Next kaise means "how." Kaise. Next, we have hai, which in English literally means, "is" or "are". All together, we have Aap kaise hai? This literally means, "How do you do?"

After Aap kaise hai, we will cover "My name is...", and we will use my name this time. Therefore, "My name is Maria" is Mera nam Maria hai. The first word mera means, "my," and we follow it with nam, which in English is "name." na-m, nam. To recap here, we have mera nam, which literally means, "my name" Then you have the name, in this case Maria. And next is "hai" means "is" All together, we have Mera nam Maria hai, which literally means, "My name is Maria."

After that, we will cover "Nice to meet you," which in Hindi is Aapse milkar achcha laga. The first word aapse means "to you" formal next is milkar which in English is "to meet" and next is achcha literally means, "Pleasure." Let us here it one more time achcha a-chcha and next is laga which in English is "to feel" so altogether achcha laga means "feel nice" All together, we have Aapse milkar achcha laga, which literally means, "Nice to meet you".

Let's look over the informal level now. It's very straightforward because you need to change just a few things.

Aap kaise hai "How do you do?" becomes Ti kanis since you are now using the second person singular in place of the third person plural of the formal level. The second part doesn't change at all. In fact, we also have Mera nam Maria hai in the informal level meaning, "My name is Maria."

In place of Aapse milkar achcha laga "nice to meet you" in the informal level, instead we have Harika poli! Harika means, "pleasure," and as we know poli means, "much/a lot." This is simple and useful! Harika poli, harika poli.

## PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
आप कैसे हैं?	aap kaise hain?	How do you do? (formal)
तुम कैसे हो?	tum kaise ho?	How do you do? (informal)
मेरा नाम मानसी है	meraa naam Manasi hai	My name is Manasi
आप से मलिकर अच्छा लगा	aap se milkar achchaa lagaa	Nice to meet you. (formal)
तुम से मलिकर अच्छा लगा	tumse milkar achchaa lagaa	Nice to meet you. (informal)

## VOCABULARY

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
नाम	naam	name
अच्छा	acchaa	pleasure
लगना	laganaa	feel

## QUICK TIP

Simple things such as greeting someone in the morning with a namaste instead of "good morning," or introducing yourself in the native language, will go a long way in making friends with your hosts. In addition, enquiring about words and their meaning is an excellent way to carry a conversation for hours between people who don't share a common language.

## QUICK TIP 2

The existence of many different dialects does not prevent one Indian from communicating and understanding with another in a comfortable manner. In fact, every Hindi jokes about how impossible it would be for a foreigner to learn Hindi in its totality - referring to the multitude of names for identical things, and the different dialects.